

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS:

36. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for mounting a device to a surface, the apparatus comprising:

a shaft holder having a plurality of walls, a bottom having a first hole formed therein, and an open top so as to form a receptacle for receiving the device, wherein the device is removably positionable within said shaft holder;

a threaded rod positioned so as to extend through said first hole;

a nut in threaded engagement with said threaded rod; and

a plurality of attachment components adapted to be assembled into a plurality of attachment means each of a different configuration for attaching said shaft holder to the surface, at least one of said attachment means comprising the assembly of less than all of said plurality of attachment components, provided that all of said plurality of attachment means at least includes said shaft holder.

63. (Twice Amended) An apparatus of mounting a device to a supporting surface, the apparatus comprising:

a shaft holder including a bottom having a first hole formed therein and an open top forming a receptacle therein for receiving the device, wherein the device is removably positionable within said shaft holder;

a threaded rod positioned to extend through said first hole;

a nut in threaded engagement with said threaded rod; and a plurality of attachment components adapted to be assembled into a plurality of attachment means each of a different configuration for attaching said shaft holder to the surface, at least one of said attachment means comprising the assembly of less than all of said plurality of attachment components, provided that all of said plurality of attachment means at least includes said shaft holder.

67. (Twice Amended) A system for mounting a device to a supporting surface using one of a plurality of devices each of a different configuration that can be assembled from the system, the system comprising:

a shaft holder including a bottom having a first hole formed therein and an open top forming a receptacle for receiving the device, wherein the device is removably insertable into said receptacle;

a plurality of threaded rods;

a nut;

a clamping plate;

a first member having a first flange and a second flange generally perpendicularly attached to said first flange, said first flange having a second hole formed therein, and said second flange having at least a third hole formed therein; and

a second member having a third flange and a fourth flange generally perpendicularly attached to said third flange, said third flange having a fourth hole formed therein, and said fourth flange having at least a fifth hole formed therein; said shaft holder, said plurality of threaded rods, said nut, said clamping plate, said first member and said second member comprising attachment components adapted to be assembled into said plurality of devices, at least one of said plurality of devices comprising the assembly of less than all of said attachment components provided that all of said plurality of devices at least includes said shaft holder.

72. (Amended) An apparatus ~~effor~~ mounting a device to a supporting surface, the apparatus comprising:

a shaft holder including a bottom and an open top forming a receptacle therein for receiving the device, wherein the device is removably positionable within said shaft holder;

a threaded rod positioned to extend from said bottom surface of said shaft holder; and

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a plurality of attachment components adapted to be assembled into a plurality of attachment means each of a different configuration for attaching said shaft holder to the surface, at least one of said attachment means comprising the assembly of less than all of said plurality of attachment components, provided that all of said plurality of attachment means at least includes said shaft holder.

73. (Amended) The apparatus ~~of~~as described in claim 72, wherein at least one of said plurality of attachment components is attached to said threaded rod.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action dated October 10, 2001, the shortened statutory period for filing a response having expired on January 10, 2002. Accordingly, Applicant submits herewith a Two Month Extension Petition resetting the deadline for responding to the Official Action to and including March 10, 2002. In view of the above amendments and within remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection, as well as Notice of Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant has cancelled Figs. 20-23 without disclaimer or prejudice to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

The Examiner in the Official Action has stated that amended claims 36, 50, 63 and 67 and newly submitted claims 72 and 73 as presented in Applicant's prior response are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. The Examiner states that Applicant has attempted to make claims 36, 50, 63 and 67 generic, but the amended language has actually narrowed the claims to include all the species except for the elected Species II. Accordingly, the Examiner contends that Applicant's independent claims are therefore not considered generic.

During a telephone interview with the Examiner on November 7, 2001, the invention as set forth in Applicant's independent claims was discussed with the Examiner. It was pointed out to the Examiner how each of the claims was generic and readable upon Species II which was previously elected. It was agreed by the Examiner that all claims pending in the application were proper as being generic, and therefore, entitled to examination in this application. It was requested by the Examiner that Applicant submit a written communication directed to this issue.

The present invention is directed to an apparatus or system for mounting a device to a supporting surface using one of a plurality of attachment means or devices each of a different configuration. Each apparatus or system includes at least a shaft holder and a threaded rod, e.g., a screw or a bolt, and a plurality of other attachment components. The plurality of attachment components are adapted to be assembled into a plurality of attachment means or devices each of a different configuration for attaching the shaft holder to the supporting surface. At least one of the attachment means or devices comprises the assembly of less than the plurality of attachment components, but including at least the shaft holder.

The plurality of attachment components include those components which at least make up the configuration of the elected Species II, but may additionally include the components making up the non-elected species. By selection of the attachment components, including at least the shaft holder, the configuration of the mounting bracket disclosed in Species II can be assembled. However, by selecting different attachment components, including the shaft holder, other species of the configurable mount can also be constructed.

From the foregoing, the apparatus of claims 36, 63 and 72 and the system of claims 50 and 67 include a plurality of components, in the nature of a universal kit, which can be assembled into various attachment means or mounting devices of different configurations. In accordance with the present invention, at least one of the attachment means or plurality of devices results from the assembly of less than all of the components provided pursuant to the claimed apparatus or system, wherein all of the attachment means or plurality of devices at least includes the shaft holder. The user can assemble all or less than the totality of the components into one or more attachment means or devices for mounting a device to a supporting

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surface. The various configurations into which the components can be assembled are disclosed in the specification and drawings. By way of example only, the assembled components can be formed into a clamp mount, wall mount, and/or flat mount as recited in claim 51.

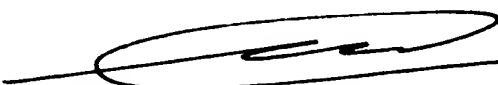
In view of the foregoing, all claims pending in this application are directed to generic claims or which are readable upon the elected species, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. In addition, all claims pending in the application are both novel and unobvious over the prior art of record, and notice to that effect is further requested.

The Examiner is also requested to acknowledge the prior art cited in Applicant's Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated January 29, 2002. If, for any reason the Examiner is of the opinion that the above action cannot be taken at this time, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional issue that may be unresolved.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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